Import of Rifampicin

143. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bulgaria has offered Rifamipicin to private parties at a price of £ 165 per Kg.;

(b) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is not allowing the import to private parties;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that his Ministry decided a policy to allow 20 per cent import; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons for deviation from the laid down policy?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) This Department is not aware of such an offer.

(b) to (e) In the current Import and Export Policy (April, 1988 March, 1991) Rifampicin has been put in Appendix-3, Part A i.e., list of limited permissible items. The import have been allowed to M/s. Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) to tide over temporary shortages, if any.

Overcharging on Combiflame Tablets

144. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of Combiflame Tablets was fixed at Rs. 7·25 per 10's strip under DPCO, 1979;

(b) if so, when was this price fixed and how the companies have continued charging Rs. 12·25 uptil now; and

(c) by when action under Essential Commodities Act will be taken and amount overcharged will be recovered?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) The required details are given in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred question 3 for 24th April, 1989.

Recommendations of Kelkar Committee for price Decontrol on Drugs

145. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the basis of certificates granted by the Department of Science and Technology and CSIR, Kelkar Committee recommended price decontrol of certan drugs;

(b) if so, what are the names of those drugs;

(c) whether it is a fact that these drugs have not been price decontrolled though a number of other drugs have been price decontrolled which do not fulfil any criteria laid down for the purpose;

(e) by when these drugs would be price decontrolled; and

(e) when would the supplementary report of Kelkar Committee be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (d) exclusion of 15 drugs from price control as per Drugs (Prices Control) Amendment Order, 1989 notified on 18-1-1989 is based on the recommendations contained in the Supplementary report submitted by the Committee. Some other recommendations are yet to be examined.

(e) Copies of the Report are available in the Parliament Library.